

## BROOKLYN NEWS.

## NEW JERSEY NEWS.

## WILL THRILL EVERYBODY.

## FROM LOUIS XVI. DAYS

Mrs. Plain Seeks the Solution of an Interesting Mystery.

Rocheffort Children Smuggled Here During the "Reign of Terror."

She Married the Descendant of One and Property is in Litigation.

Mrs. Rosalie Plain, of 909 Driggs avenue, Brooklyn, has been trying for just a week to see Supt. Byrnes to ask him to assist her in communicating with a family of the nobility of France, possibly some branch of the descendants of Louis XVI. Up to this morning she had not succeeded. Her story is strange and interesting.

In 1793, just at the beginning of the Reign of Terror in France, two children, brother and sister, were brought to this country. The boy was seven and the girl was six years of age. With the children came an old servant to their parents, who took the children to Philadelphia and gave them in charge to the Quakers there.

The information which the servant gave regarding the children was meagre. They were children of the Rocheffort family, strict Royalists. Their parents had been beheaded for clinging to the falling fortune of Louis XVI. The little ones had only been saved by the efforts of relatives, who had smuggled them aboard a vessel in basins that were covered with willow boughs.

Fearing that harm might come to the children it was thought advisable to change their name, so they were given that of De Ford.

In 1806, when the Ford, of Rocheffort, died, his son, then in his sixteenth year, was married to Harriett Maria Plain of this city. Mr. Plain, at that time, was the proprietor of the only art store in the city. It was located on a high hill, where Chatham Square is now.

Mr. Plain was in the habit of going through the different cities to receive commissions for the purchase of imported paintings. It was while on one of these trips that he met Suzanne, with the Quakers, in Philadelphia. A son was the result of this meeting.

The year after the marriage a sum of money was received by the young man from a Baltimore banking house. With it came a communication stating that this was a portion of a trust fund left to the bank, the interest of which was to be paid annually.

The young man, who was named John, wrote asking for more definite information, but told him none could be given under the conditions of the trust.

The interest was paid regularly, but nothing could be learned as to who had placed the funds with the bank.

In December, 1840, when John, the youngest brother of Napoleon, came to Baltimore on a French man-of-war, in that same month he married Elizabeth Patterson.

Just at this time the Quakers were to her, saying that Bonaparte had been making inquiries at the bank relative to the money which he had received, and that the Quakers would be ordered to get from the bank certain papers left there by the trust fund.

John, who was then in Baltimore, was told that these papers would be ordered to him it would involve international complications, and John was advised to go to Baltimore.

After a long consultation it was decided that John should return to his home and information would be sent him if the bank could be relieved of its secret.

It was several months before she heard. Then it was by a letter, directing her to go to the house in New York where she would be given information.

To Newark, she went. There at the house named "The Grange," she met a man. The man was dressed as a priest. He spoke to Mrs. Plain sternly, telling her that the money would be continued during her life, but that she would never hear more of it. And she never did.

In 1846, when John Patterson ran for the Presidency, he published for campaign purposes an autobiography. In it he said that he had married the daughter of Judge Ford, of South Carolina. The Judge's name had been Ford, but he had never used it.

Continuing, he said that Judge Ford was a French nobleman, and that he, with his sister, had been brought to America at an early age, but that he had after many attempts, gained possession of papers, and been recognized by the Bonapartes as of noble blood.

The son of John and Mrs. Plain, who was born in 1840, and was named John Peter Plain, had, meanwhile, married. His son was named Francis B. Plain. It is the wife of this latter gentleman who now tells the story. F. B. Plain is a retired merchant.

During the past year a gentleman living the name of the Court More, Mrs. More called upon F. B. Plain. He said he was in search of the heirs of Suzanne De Ford. There was property in litigation in France, and she was a confederate and the Court was to return in a week. He did not come back.

Mrs. Plain, in desiring to see Supt. Byrnes to see whether he could not assist her in clearing up what is still a mystery.

## EXONERATED ON ONE CHARGE

But Bertsch Must Answer Miss Kennedy's Other Accusation.

Justice Goetting, in the Lee Avenue Court, Williamsburg, today discharged William Bertsch, the son of a wealthy merchant, who was accused of trifling with the affections of Nellie Kennedy, seventeen years old, of 50 Lee avenue, but held him on a more serious charge.

The girl, who is decidedly pretty, said that Bertsch had deceived her under promise of marriage. Testimony against the girl was given by Isaac Shadock, of 22 East Seventy-third street, William Kahn, of 106 East 42d street, and Louis Goldbaum, of 40 Avenue A. Although exonerated on one complaint Bertsch would be held on a charge of being responsible for Miss Kennedy's condition.

MRS. POST WANTS A DIVORCE.

The Jockey's Wife Does Not Name the Co-respondents.

Charles H. Post, the well-known steeplechase rider, of Sheepshead Bay, was this morning served with papers in a suit for absolute divorce, which has been begun in the Connecticut courts by his wife, Mary T. Post.

Mrs. Post is the daughter of "Father Bill" Daly, the veteran turfman, who is now known as the "Sage of Hartford." Mrs. Post is now with her father in Hartford.

The names of the co-respondents are not cited in the papers.

## MUTTERING AGAINST SHEEHAN

Long Island City's Unemployed Ignored by the Contractor.

Italians from New York Given the Preference at Low Wages.

LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y., Jan. 20.—"Considerable indignation prevails among the unemployed residents of this city over the importation yesterday of a gang of Italians by Police Commissioner John C. Sheehan, of New York, to work upon the construction of the sewerage system at the City Hall, for which he was \$2,500. The contractor of men visited the works last evening and re-manifested in half a dozen languages, and with various imprecations against what they termed the "Sheehan boycott of local laborers."

Commissioner Sheehan obtained the contract a few weeks ago from Mayor Sanford's General Improvement Commission. His bid was \$2,500. The commission was created by an act of the last Legislature, and Louis Gov. Sheehan, the Police Commissioner's brother, was one of the most ardent advocates of the bill, and subsequently, sanctioned and approved its passage.

Mr. Sheehan, of Astoria, a brother of Police Inspector Williams, of New York, spent the winter in Albany, and worked hard among the Republican Assemblymen on behalf of the bill. Ex-Mayor Graham and other leading residents of the city also went to Albany and opposed the measure.

The ex-Mayor reportedly said that the bill was a "mischievous" scheme, and the "deals" conceived during his fight with Mayor Sanford for possession of the City Hall, and that it was intended for the purpose of reaping favours from the Italian vote.

Police Commissioner Sheehan was awarded the contract and Williams was made an Improvement Commissioner at a salary of \$100 a year.

Mr. Sheehan began work a few days ago on his Harrison avenue contract. A great howl went up from the unemployed laborers, but the Italian immigrants of the city, when they discovered that Italians were at work on the sewerage system, they were not so much alarmed.

"It is an outrage on the taxpayers of Long Island City," said the unemployed men, "to see the Italian immigrants of this city ignored in giving out employment."

The Commissioner, they said, "is authorized to spend \$1,500,000. The taxpayers of this city alone must pay this amount, and in spite of this the Italian laborers are forced to remain idle for want of employment, while Italians are doing the work which we should do."

Mr. Sheehan has already received contracts from Long Island City amounting to \$1,500,000. On Thursday he was awarded a contract by the Sanford Commission to construct a sewer on Broadway, for \$250,000. It is expected that over three hundred working days will be spent in construction of this main, and that some of the Italian immigrants at present in the city.

It is feared that the idle men of the city will be forced to go to the streets and destroy Contractor Sheehan's plant if the work is not given to the suffering poor of the town.

## MANY SUITS TO BE BROUGHT.

Brooklyn Will Try to Recover Some of the Overcharge.

\$25,000 Too Much Paid for the Columbian Celebration.

Papers are being prepared by Corporation Counsel Almon F. Jenks, of Brooklyn, in suits to be brought against contractors and others whose overcharges against the city created the scandals in connection with the Columbian celebration.

Mr. Jenks in ten days will be an official, but before his time expires everything will be in readiness for his successor, Mr. McDonald, to prosecute the suits.

The Commission appointed by the Legislature to audit the bills has completed the audit, and the result is filed with the Corporation Counsel.

The Commission found gross and fraudulent overcharges in some of the bills. Among the persons against whom suits are to be brought are F. J. Jones, who paid \$10,000 for building stands; Francis H. Weeks, bill for furnishing ushers; and Mr. Montague, who was paid for whiskey for the Aldermen, and C. Carlton, \$1000 for cigars.

The person who furnished the music for the celebration are also to be sued. The total cost of the celebration was \$250,000, and for the Commission found that the city was overcharged about \$25,000.

## ALLEGED POST-OFFICE ROBBER.

R. C. Brown Arrested While Writing a Postal Card.

United States Commissioner Muelre, of Brooklyn, this morning held R. C. Brown, twenty-six years old, of Elmira, to await the action of the Grand Jury.

Mrs. Eglo Got \$22 From Saloon-keeper McKenna.

Justice Goetting, in the Lee Avenue Court, Williamsburg, today held Mrs. Eglo, of 283 Mary avenue, on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses from John McKenna, a saloon-keeper, of 40 Mary avenue. McKenna says that he was not deceived by Mrs. Eglo, and that he was not deceived by her.

It is alleged that he was writing on one of the cards taken from the New Brighton office.

## HUSBAND WASN'T FINED.

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## Application for a Receiver.

Application was made this morning to Justice Cullen, in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, for a receiver to wind up the affairs of the R. W. Frank Company, of Washington street, manufacturers of bicycles. The capital stock was \$50,000. The company is insolvent. Pending reserved.

## TO BEAT TEST NOTE DRILL.

Assembly and Senate Committees Have a Surprise for Gravesend.

Testimony Heard To-Day in the Pasfield-Melody Contest.

Before the Assembly Committee set in the Brooklyn City Hall this morning to hear the case of George R. Pasfield, who is contesting the seat in the Assembly of William E. Melody, Lawyer Elliott announced that he had settled upon a plan to defeat Justice Newton's scheme of drilling voters before the test is taken Monday in order to be possible to the Committee that it was impossible to vote 1502 men in the Second District on Election Day.

Both the Senate and Assembly Committees announced that they had a surprise in store for the Gravesend voters, and that their labor spent in drilling would amount to nothing.

The Assemblymen and Senators who profited by the Gravesend vote are afraid now that Justice Newton's little drilling scheme will go against them, and in case rapid voting is demonstrated at Monday's test the Committees will give it all back.

In the case of Pasfield against Melody, in the Ninth Assembly District, Melody received 1502 votes, and Pasfield received 1499 votes. Pasfield claims that 42 fraudulent votes were cast for Melody in the district.

He says the registry lists show that voters had registered from vacant lots, and that the voters who were registered were not the voters who were registered.

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## AT THE BROOKLYN THEATRES.

Modjeska in Various Plays at the Park Next Week.

"A Railroad Ticket" at the Bijou—Other Plays.

Modjeska will make her reappearance at the Park Theatre next Monday night in an English version of Sudermann's "Heimath," which she has named "Magda." The scene is in a typical German middle-class home, where the traditions of parental authority and conventional dignity are absolute. It will be repeated Tuesday night and Saturday night. "Macbeth," Tuesday and Saturday nights; "Camille," Wednesday matinee and Friday night; and "Merchant of Venice," Wednesday night. This Sunday afternoon, at the Columbia Theatre, the opera company will be presented with "The Isle of Chempagne." The story of the opera is laid on an island in the sea, and the scene is in a typical French middle-class home, where the traditions of parental authority and conventional dignity are absolute. It will be repeated Tuesday night and Saturday night. "Macbeth," Tuesday and Saturday nights; "Camille," Wednesday matinee and Friday night; and "Merchant of Venice," Wednesday night.

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## ASSAULT NOT TO BE KNOWN.

So Says Miss Dexter of the May Barrowcliffe Outrage.

Patient Rapidly Gaining Strength and Is Not Being Annoyed.

Miss Gertrude Dexter, cousin of Miss Barrowcliffe, who was so mysteriously assaulted in a vacant lot in Jersey City three weeks ago, called to see her this morning as usual at the Jersey City Hospital. They talked for over half an hour.

"She is undoubtedly recovering now," said Miss Dexter, when seen by an "Evening World" reporter at Rockwood's photographic gallery, where she is employed as bookkeeper.

"May is in her perfect senses, so far as anything outside of the mystery surrounding her assault is concerned. She talks rationally on every other subject, and recognizes those who go to see her."

When I called at the hospital this morning she was very glad to see me. I told her of a new dress I was having made, and she asked me to describe it fully to her. When I told her all about it she laughed and said that such a dress would always attract attention.

"I was looking out of the window most of the time," she said, and she told me of her own little life in the hospital. She reads and tells me the prettiest stories, and she is very kind and sympathetic.

Regarding a previous conversation in which Miss Dexter had said that she was going towards the station, Miss Dexter said that she was going towards the station.

"There can be no doubt of the truth of that statement," she said, and she told me of her own little life in the hospital. She reads and tells me the prettiest stories, and she is very kind and sympathetic.

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## EDWARD M. CLARK MAY LIVE.

Favorable Report on Others of the Injured.

Commuters May Testify for the Railroad This Afternoon.

An unexpected change for the better was noticed in Edward M. Clark's condition at St. Mary's Hospital, Hoboken, today, and Dr. R. H. Chamberlain, President of the Board of Surgeons, now holds out strong hopes for his ultimate recovery.

Mr. Clark lives at Hacking Ridge. He was among the most severely injured in the Hackensack Meadows accident last Monday. His life was despaired of forty-eight hours ago, but he has weathered the crisis, and his wife, who is constantly at his bedside, is much elated at the hopeful outlook for her husband to-day.

The body of Charles E. Mincher, who died in St. Mary's yesterday, still lay in the hospital this morning. It was found at his bedside, and was removed to the morgue at the New York Hospital, East Nineteenth street, this afternoon.

"Steadily improving," was the report on the other Hackensack victims in St. Mary's Hospital, and by next week several of them will be sufficiently convalescent to permit of removal to their homes.

Messrs. Clark, in the hospital are Christopher Arnold, Harry S. Cowing, "Corny" Arthur Gardner, Frederick Ferguson and Ernest H. Schafer.</